

The Red Antichrist and Christmas

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

How grateful we should be for the fact of His Resurrection from the dead! Had He not risen, we still would be in our sins, and of all men most miserable. But He *did* rise. And now, with every assurance and hope, we can sing exultantly, "Christ the Lord is risen today — Alleluia!"

—Dr. George H. Dowkontt.



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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

The Missionary Letter

By DOROTHY C. HASKIN

(Condensed from a circular letter issued by the Misses Laura Thomas and Irene Mills, editors of the children's missionary magazine, "Around the World with Uncle Paul" (Lomita, California). Used with their permission and that of the author.)

Letters are the life-line between the missionary and the pray-er; therefore it is vital that the letter be interesting. Here are a few suggestions to help you write vital missionary letters.

Don't open with a Bible verse. It is a "mental block," because the unsaved aren't interested in Bible verses, and the Christian assumes he knows them. And the verse is of no value unless it is tied in with the message in the letter. Do use Scripture verses when, and only when, you mean them.

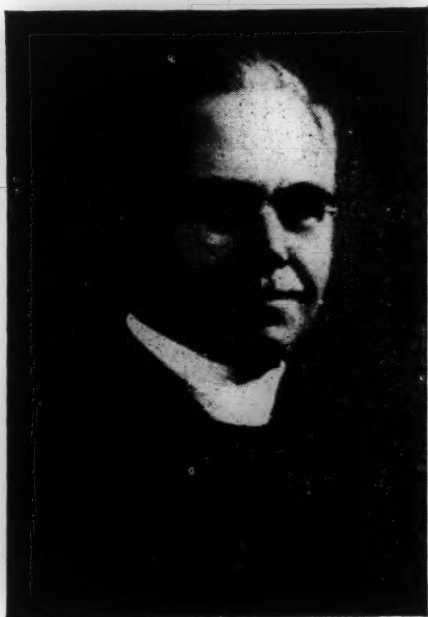
Don't use vague general statements which do not make a picture for the reader; as for instance this missionary did: "Our hearts are full of praise for His continual care and His guidance. We have much to be thankful for. He has given strength for every duty." Do tell definite incidents, which will prompt prayer.

Open with an interesting illustration, and defer your explanation of it until afterwards. Tell of definite things for which to praise the Lord. Nothing succeeds like success. Permit yourself one paragraph of the general news and needs of the field, as you can't tell everything which has happened in detail. Give the reader something definite about which to pray; don't make general requests. In writing to individuals, end your letter with a definite request for an answer, and add a personal postscript whenever possible. An interesting missionary letter will greatly increase the prayer and financial help in your work for the Lord.

(This letter was received after all the rest of the material for the present issue had been compiled. Our readers will be interested in noting whether the letters printed in this magazine measure up to the high standards given above.)

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The Red Antichrist and Christmas



DR. SIMONS

(Excerpts from a Sermon delivered on Sunday, December 17, 1950, at Christ Methodist Church, Glendale, Borough of Queens, New York, by the Minister, the Rev. Dr. George Albert Simons, A.M., D.D. Requested and published by *The Brooklyn Eagle*.)

The grim reality of the Red Antichrist is facing all Christendom today. Having been an eyewitness to the so-called October Revolution of the Bolsheviki in the old Russian capital thirty-three years ago, I vividly recall the reign of terror and its effect upon three million or more inhabitants, most of whom were Christians. What impressed me most at that time, as I conversed with scores of Christian people, was their emphatic reaction expressed in these words, "Behold, this is the anti-christ!"

And some of them even quoted

verses from the First Epistle of Saint John: "Little children, it is the last hour: and as ye heard that antichrist cometh, even now have there arisen many antichrists: whereby we know that it is the last hour. Who is the liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, even he that denieth the Father and the Son."

In the "Communist Manifesto" of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, generally called "The Bolshevik Bible," it is very clearly stated what the iconoclastic ideology of atheistic, materialistic communism aims to do with regard to everything that is dear to us in Christian culture and civilization. Assuredly we who are consistent, loyal followers of Christ cannot be stupidly indifferent to what the Red Antichrist proposes to do in fostering a diabolical world revolution, and fully realizing that this is no trifling matter, we are ready to heed the exhortation of Saint Jude, "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints." The time has come that all Christendom must unitedly assert itself against the satanic power of Marxist communism. Knowing as we do what the communistic attitude has been toward the popular observance of certain Church festivals, particularly Christmas and Easter, let us during the coming Christmastide pray most earnestly for the millions of fellow-Christians languishing in abject servitude behind the Iron Curtain, and being denied so many blessed freedoms and privileges that we in our own country simply take for granted.

The ruthless Red Antichrist seeks to destroy Christianity, but it is written in the stars that he will never succeed! History teaches us one thing very clearly: that persecutions, paradoxical as it may sound, usually defeat themselves, it being eternally true that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The more the Reds endeavor to kill religion and certain age-old customs in religious observance, the more tenaciously people cling to their spiritual heritage, this being true in Soviet Russia, the satellite countries, and Eastern Germany, with a part of Red Berlin.

Sixteen years ago, the leader of the All-Russian Evangelical Christian Union, Rev. Ivan S. Prokhanoff, banished from his native land like thousands of other patriotic Russians, while carrying on his self-sacrificing labors in America and Canada, requested me to compose an appropriate poem that he could use as a Christmas greeting for the many friends and supporters of the sacred cause so dear to his heart. I gladly complied with his wish, and when I read the poem to him tears streamed down his cheeks, and he assured me that it was indeed just the kind of Christmas message he wanted. Of course, that made me unspeakably happy, for I have been a so-called "Russo-phile" the past forty-odd years. The title of that poem, which has gone all over America and Europe but not into Soviet Russia, is "In Hoc Signo Vinctes" (By this sign thou shalt conquer). It may help to stimulate conquering faith in the ultimate victory of the divine Prince of Peace, whose Nativity will again be celebrated by millions of dear fellow-Christians behind the Iron Curtain. Here is the poem, dedicated to my beloved sainted friend and Frater in Christo, Ivan S. Prokhanoff:

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

"Religion's dead in Russia!"
 Glib parrots loud repeat.
 "Christ's conquering Cross, now vanquished,
 At last has met defeat!"
 Apollyon with legions
 Bursts forth in fiendish mirth,
 Proclaiming Marx and Lenin
 The coming lords of earth.

Of yore, when pagan Romans
 The world by conquest won,
 So drunk were they with power
 They helped to slay God's Son!
 Of yore, when persecutions
 Swept o'er the Christian fold,
 The dross by testings vanished,
 Fires purified the gold.

Of yore, the blood of Martyrs,
 Sown as the Church's seed,
 Brought forth a bounteous harvest
 To praying souls in need.
 Unchanged, the Lord of Harvest
 Staunch saints and brave hath sent
 As heralds of His Gospel.
 Whose light sin's darkness rent.

God's power of salvation
 Christ's Gospel brings to men;
 The Spirit's Sword is mightier
 Than any Marxian pen.
 Lo, Christ abides in Russia,
 He knoweth well His own;
 The Antichrist that reigneth
 Will some day lose his throne!

Then Christmastide and Easter,
 As in the former times
 Observed with sacred customs
 And heart-inspiring chimes,
 Shall flash to Christian Russians
 And Christians everywhere
 The shining Sign from Heaven
 That God still answers prayer!

(For over fifty years Dr. Simons, as a Minister of the Methodist Church, has employed his fearless voice and pen in behalf of civic righteousness, world peace and universal brotherhood. He has been decorated by France, Latvia, Finland and other countries. He was one of the first Americans to be made a "Chevalier of the Cross, Order of the White Rose of Finland, First Class." Dr. Simons spent over twenty years as Superintendent of American Methodist work in Finland, Russia, and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He had charge of the relief shipment under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions in the winter of 1919-1920, the first relief to reach that part of Europe after the First World War. He testified before the United States Senate, in February, 1919, concerning the Bolshevik regime in Russia and Red propaganda in America. Dr. Simons' message, originally delivered as a Christmas sermon, is timely at Easter and throughout the year. It has been printed in leaflet form; extra copies may be obtained gratis from THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD or from the author direct. Dr. Simons recently celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday. We wish him much joy and further blessing in the Lord.)

A Visit to the Capital of Argentina

In due time I received invitations from the Central Regional Union to attend their annual Regional Conference in Buenos Aires, which was to take place early in January, 1951; also to attend the All-Union Annual Congress in the distant province of Misiones, in the city of Obera, which was to be held at the beginning of February. I also received a special request that after the Congress I would visit the churches in that region and hold meetings in them. Our Slavonic Church in the Republic of Uruguay earnestly requested me to visit them, and to conduct special meetings there, also a baptismal service. The church in Buenos Aires, of which I still serve as the official pastor, wanted me to hold meetings there, also home visitations and baptisms. Since I had such an extensive program, and my time was limited, I decided for this time to omit the trip to the province of Misiones, as I had to be back home in the province of Mendoza at a fixed time.

The Regional Conference in Buenos Aires.—Because our work covers such a vast territory, we have our regional associations or unions of neighboring churches. We also have a general union which includes all the regions. These regions have their annual conferences, which take care of the needs and all the business of these associations. It was a great joy to me to be present at this annual Regional Conference in our center, to meet with all the workers of the region and with those from other places, and together with them to make decisions concerning all the business and needs of the work of God. All our transactions were conducted in perfect unity and harmony. The Lord is blessing the work among the Slavonic immigrants, and the labor of evangelization is perceptibly increasing. There is a very great need of workers who would be able to devote all their time to the work of God. In the central region alone we have room for no less than ten workers. Requests are coming in from various places, telling of the great need of workers, both in the center itself, and also from the provinces. We need self-sacrificing workers, and means for their support. Let us remember the words of our Lord: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9.37,38). The Conference decided to take measures, according to their ability, for satisfying this important need, and to pray the Lord for help.



BAPTISM BY BROTHER KOVALCHUK

Three Weeks of Services in the Central Church in Buenos Aires.—After the Regional Conference, the whole period of my stay in Buenos Aires was devoted to service in one of our local central churches, for which I am still officially responsible. On Sundays I conducted the regular divine service in the center and in the suburbs, and we also had evening services several times in various parts of the city. The other days of the week were devoted chiefly to house-to-house visitation.

On Sunday, January 7th, we had a special service, very well attended, at which twelve people were baptized. Nearly all of those entering into covenant relationship with the Lord were young men and women. This is especially heartening, when the young people give themselves to God, not only saving themselves for eternity, but also dedicating their earthly lives to the Lord. The very large hall of the Argentine Baptist Church was filled to overflowing with people. All the seats, both on the main floor and on the balcony, were filled, and many were standing in the corridor, because there was no other place for them. There was much testimony to the Word of God, both in words, and also in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. May the Lord prosper and increase all the seed that we have sown in our human weakness.

Visitation of the Homes.—During the time of my sojourn in the center, I made a great many home visitations, both in Buenos Aires itself, and its environs, and also in the neighboring cities, where there are divisions belonging to the central organization. The home visitation is obviously a very important and useful part of the work of evangelization. It affords a wonderful opportunity for personal talks with individuals, pointing out to them their need of salvation in Christ. The Lord gave us many wonderful incidents, and blessings, of which neither time nor space will permit me to write in detail. I want to describe only briefly a visit to some of the members of the central church, who live near the town of Marco-Pas, about 70 kilometers from Buenos Aires.

A certain dear brother in Buenos Aires had requested me very earnestly to go there and visit his ailing parents, who could not come to our worship services at the center, on account of their physical weakness. They were in need of spiritual strengthening, and they also wished me to celebrate the Lord's Supper for them. This brother kindly offered to take me and one of the deacons there on his motorcycle, assuring us that the journey would be a safe one, since he would put me in the side seat, where I could sleep like a child. In the morning, after breakfast, we started on our journey. The weather was beautiful. The hot sun of our South American summer penetrated everything with its burning rays. Leaving the noisy city of Buenos

Aires behind us, we flew swiftly along, past beautiful fields and plains, dotted with the various kinds of stock that were grazing there. Now and then we passed beautiful villas and small houses. The landscape was exceedingly picturesque. We had not yet had time to enjoy the beauties of nature sufficiently, when our brother suddenly turned off the paved road. In a few minutes we stopped before the familiar little old house where his parents lived. The old people had a small plot of land beside this house. They raised chickens, had a pair of cows, a small apiary, and passed their lives very peacefully. From time to time we from the center have visited them, and have conducted meetings in their house, inviting the neighbors in. The Lord has often abundantly blessed these meetings. But a short time ago the old people were overtaken by a heavy trial. The father began to have trouble with his eyes, his sight was failing, and he could hardly attend to the work of the household. In addition to this, his wife has recently suffered a paralytic stroke, her arms are useless, and hang down like ropes, she cannot walk, and can barely stand on her feet. She has to be fed like a child. Furthermore, they have another son, who is also a paralytic, and can barely move about from place to place in the yard beside the house, with the help of crutches or a wheelchair, which he rarely leaves. Upon the father falls the great responsibility of looking after the household and caring for the sick. But it is wonderful to see how, in spite of everything, they all bear without murmuring the trial which has been sent upon them. They are rejoicing in the Lord, and in His salvation in Christ. They were very glad of our unexpected visit. Then, too, we had the opportunity of visiting, in this neighborhood, some other members of our church. Afterwards we went into the house, had a meeting, and celebrated the Lord's Supper. We rejoiced together, were edified in the Word of God, and thanked the Lord for His wonderful mercies to us.

The sun had sunk below the horizon, and the whole region was bathed in twilight shadows, when we started on our homeward way. We arrived safely home in Buenos Aires, when it was already quite dark. We were thankful to God that He had permitted us to pass the day in work for His glory, and for the benefit of His own in Christ. May the Lord be praised in everything.

JOHN KOVALCHUK.

Jewish News Report and Prayer Letter

St. Petersburg, Florida, March, 1951.

Dear Praying Friends:-

"In due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

"God is faithful." He has heard our united prayers for a continued witness to Israel in St. Petersburg and resorts close by. Soon after my return to Florida last fall from a trip north, for recuperation from the effects of the extreme heat in this tropical climate, the way opened for a good testimony at an expensive spa. The owner and operator, a Jewish doctor, had been contacted upon several occasions. He had accepted literature and a copy of the New Testament, so knew the nature of my visits.

At this time there were some thirty guests at his beautiful health clinic, among them several Gentile ladies. One of them, a fine Christian, with Israel's salvation at heart, invited me to dinner with her there, both of us praying that opportunities to minister to souls would ensue. God wonderfully blessed. A Jewish couple at the table with us were deeply impressed with the testimony. They and others accepted our invitation to hear a Hebrew

Christian brother from New York City, a speaker at our friendly Gospel Center in St. Petersburg, the next evening. A second invitation to dinner with the Christian lady, including the Hebrew Christian speaker and his wife, resulted in a fine testimony to the entire group of guests and workers. Having been asked some searching questions by our brother at his lecture period later that evening, the doctor himself was led to take part. Mr. B., our table companion, and several other guests thanked us for our visit. The doctor asked me to return, and Mr. B. insisted on sharing in the expense of our dinner entertainment. Surely, this miracle with its results, though we do not yet see it in its completion, is of the Lord in answer to our prayers. Other opportunities have come to witness to new guests at this spa from time to time. Recently it was crowded beyond capacity. As the people were reclining in small groups on the lawn in the sunshine and by the pool, we were permitted to witness and distribute portions from the Word of God.

During one of the early visits the Lord showed us another group of Jewish health seekers at a hotel near the spa. There our endeavors were blessed in a special way. Some who were reclining in the sunshine asked us to sit down, and we were able to speak to them at length, leaving portions of the Scriptures with them.

Fairly large groups of Jewish visitors come to our Gulf beaches now. Frequent trips to reach them by personal evangelism and the printed Word have been made. Many encounters and some encouraging contacts have been given. We thank God for the privilege of thus sowing His blessed Word. Calls continue in homes and shops in the St. Petersburg area, also trips to Tampa to evangelize the Jewish people there. Few such trips would be possible without the car which the Lord so graciously gave me some years ago. At present it is in fairly good order, but since it is ten years old, the need for repairs comes up frequently. The Lord is able. He abideth faithful.

We are now at the height of the tourist season. It is a time of buying up the opportunities, without much chance for the writing of reports. However, your fellowship in this ministry is essential, hence a brief report and reminder for prayer. God bless you abundantly for all you are doing to hold up our hands in this work. May a rich reward be given you.

With deep appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours in Him,

JEAN RHODE.

From Behind the Iron Curtain

(This letter was written on February 22, 1951, but for the sake of the writer's safety, the name and address are omitted.)

My dear Sister Ruth:-

Two months have passed since Christmas, when Christian people celebrated the giving of the greatest gift to men from God. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Millions of people have bowed in submission before the Son of God; but the vast majority who live on this earth have set Him at naught, as not worthy of consideration, and have rejected God's great gift—the Lord Jesus Christ. Those people have accepted other gifts, far less valuable, here today and gone tomorrow, though valued at great price—but the Son of God has been set aside. The reason for this is because these people have never realized that God really exists and loves them, and that He is able to meet every kind of need, and is ever new, fresh and precious. Therefore, the celestial

choir that published that glorious message of the greatest gift, over the hills of Bethlehem, needs to be heard over the world anew, especially in Europe.

It seemed to me that the church bells, this Christmas, rang more gloriously in our great city than ever before. The churches were simply crowded with people, young and old, and they were comforted by the glad news of the new-born Son of God, the only One who can bring joy, peace and good will among men.

Our Protestant Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and with a glittering Christmas Tree. As one large church family, we gathered together around the holy manger where the Child was born. The program was performed not by the children or the young people, as it has been in the past, but was performed by the grown-up members of the Church. But the service was simply thrilling, and deeply inspiring. These adults recited poems and long portions of the Gospels in connection with the birth of Christ; they sang solos, duets, and Christmas carols. The spirit of the service was most devout, but at the same time joyful. There was no Santa Claus, nor did the children receive any gifts, but we felt that we possess the greatest Gift in our hearts, the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

The Christmas morning service was unusually impressive. Our choir sang beautiful songs, and the sermon was wonderfully powerful. The church was simply crowded. There were people whom we have not seen for years, and there were many outsiders. The presence of the Lord was very deeply felt. Some were crying from joy and gladness.

The evening service took the form of a great concert. The Church was beautifully lighted. A big star from the Christmas Tree was spreading its soft golden rays, the colored candles gleamed brightly and softly, and everything was most impressive. The Church was filled before the concert began, and there were people who have never been among us before. After the Gospel had been read, there was a short sermon and prayer, and then the musical program began. The choir sang several selections by famous musicians. The whole audience was listening very attentively, some were weeping with joy; the faces of others were glowing with a radiant light from above. God's presence was felt throughout, and the people went out unspeakably happy, thankful for this real spiritual delight. Many people were drawn to Christ, and now they come regularly to church, and are growing in their spiritual life. Praise God!

You can imagine how much labor, time, strength and love we had put into this Christmas, but we are glad that the holy Name of the Lord was magnified and many people were drawn to Christ.

Switzerland, Italy, Germany

Biel-Mett, Switzerland, March 5, 1951.

Dear Sister Ruth:-

I have been away for three weeks of Gospel meetings up in the Alps and eastern Switzerland. Twice I held Gospel meetings in the large living-rooms of ordinary farmhouses. That's where I feel best. You know I am not a city preacher, just a plain everyday farmer preacher, with rough shoes, and some say, not too well-selected rough language too. But they seem to understand what I mean, and we usually get on pretty well together. We don't know anything about philosophies or diplomacy or psychology, but talk straight to the heart.

Of late we have started to send some help to Italy, the southern part, as from various sides our attention was called to the great need there. There

are eleven million Communists who dislike the Roman Church. But evidently they are wide open to the Gospel of Christ. There is a great work going on among these outcasts. In one instance a prison guard was saved, and started to preach the Gospel to the inmates. But the prison director and the priest got together and placed the guard in a sanatorium for mental cases, to have him examined and ascertain whether he was normal. Let out again as absolutely normal, he still had to submit to a second examination in another sanatorium. Thus it is true apostolic Christianity: people still have to suffer a good deal because they have confessed Christ.

Yet the Gospel movement grows. In one case, certain public school teachers, and partisans of the wild mountains, have been saved, and preach Christ incessantly. We have editions of Gospel literature just now being printed for them. And as there is an unheard-of poverty among the believers, we help along with clothing and food. I am sure you will want to pray for them too. We can hardly believe that this solid mass of Catholicism, after hundreds of years, should finally give way to the blessed Gospel of Christ. If God be willing, I should so very much like to visit them next summer, just to find out how we can best help them. Pastors from here go down and teach and encourage them from time to time. Now and then one comes up from there to tell of the wonderful doings among them.

Through a generous gift of the Moody Bible Institute, we have been enabled again to print hundreds of thousands of Gospel tracts in German, Italian and French. Wonderful stories are told of their distribution in hospitals and elsewhere. In one case, a Polish Gospel paper was given to a man, who was saved as a result of reading it. In the course of time a doctor was saved, and the whole atmosphere of the hospital was changed. There was another case where the passing on of a New Testament brought pleas for a copy of it from twelve patients. One teacher in Germany writes me that he started out in their town some two years ago, with about twenty-five members in a church. He put the people to work with Gospel literature, and now they have fifty members already, and the work is growing. He credits the Gospel literature as a means of attracting strangers and reaching the unchurched multitudes.

In Berlin, the U. S. A. occupation forces (the Christian soldiers) do an admirable job of giving out Gospel literature which we have been able to supply. Forty to fifty pounds of literature went off the other day again. We are happy to be of service to them. In Berlin they feel the powers in a special way, and know how much depends on whether the people have a Christian or a Communistic and materialistic mind. It all may be figured out in so many alive or dead.

For all the mission has been able to help and encourage us, we do thank you and every one who has prayed for us and given material assistance.

Greetings in Christ our Lord,

FRED STETTLER.

Personal Work in Germany

January, 1951.

Dear Prayer-helpers:-

"He will reprove . . . of sin, because they believe not on Me." (John 16.8,9.) Another New Year—may the Lord be your rich portion and refuge, until He come. What a glorious outlook we have, of which others know nothing! We did not send out any Christmas greetings, but we trust that

you will understand. You have not been forgotten, and perhaps we had no right to expect a word from you, since we did not write. Nevertheless, it was puzzling to us that no U. S. mail was coming, till on inquiry we found that our mail was wandering over all the U. S. offices. The clerk handling the foreign mail, though claiming to know English, did not know what "General Delivery" means. Some of these stray letters finally reach us, after weeks of delay; some may never reach us, and some have been returned. Please, then, to suit the "red tape," write "Postlagernd" or the international way, "Poste restante." (Note: None of our monthly remittances were lost.—Editor.)

It may be that some of you, who were so kind as to think of us, did get your letter back—please send it on again, and do not hold this oversight against us. We live in turmoil, but we are not complaining, as many of the camps are being moved. Of course we try to keep in contact with the shifting multitude, to know where to find them again, but some escape beyond reach. It is quite different to deal with a settled population and a floating one, for whom it may be our only chance to reach them.

Naturally, in this transition we meet with strange combinations, which are not always hopeless. So we found a young couple, an Evangelical youth married to a Roman Catholic girl. Not having much light himself, he could not help his wife, but at least did not hinder. Thus it was our privilege to talk to her privately, and in about two hours she saw the light of God's mercy and promises, and surrendered in prayer to Him. Her further activity proved the genuineness of her conversion.

What would you do if you were approached to adopt a sixteen-year-old boy, to save him from bad influences in the camps, to which he is exposed? The man who had befriended this boy was about to be married himself. Yes, even in this difficult life, people marry, as it is very hard for single girls to immigrate; therefore some take this method of getting away from here. This boy has a letter from his aunt in Chicago, saying that she would adopt him, if she could take the three months necessary to come here and do it. Where she got that notion I do not know, for we know from our experience with Tabitha that it does not work out that way. However, I promised to inquire at the U. S. Consulate, but have had no answer to date. But while we were at that camp, we visited the room where the boy lived, several times. He listened readily, but not once did he bother to come to any of our meetings. He was evidently under the influence of the priest, therefore it seems unlikely that any further help can be given him.

Another case worth mentioning is the one which caused me to choose the verse at the beginning of this letter. We find that people too easily claim to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, without having the first idea of a saving faith. Occasionally we have opportunity to see how empty such supposed "converts" are. The case in question is that of a former professor of chemistry, in his native land of Bohemia, and his nineteen-year-old son. We had several talks with him. He is one of the victims of the so-called national religion, believing, as he claims, on Jesus as an Example, but is very emphatic in rejecting the atoning blood. It seems that a man who delights in the Gospel meetings, and enjoys private talks, may be on the right way. But as soon as the redemption at the Cross and the shed blood is touched upon, it stirs up his self-righteousness, and he will not admit that God would demand the payment of such a price.

We were especially concerned because of the boy, who dared not speak his own thoughts. It is true that the father risked, for him, the danger of

crossing the border, and the present hardships, and it may be that the boy would not contradict his father, because of this; yet we felt that he sees the truth. It is one of the cases of a torn-up family. The wife and mother stayed behind, with a daughter. The mother must do compulsory cooking in a penal camp, to keep her from running away, as so many have done. In order not to be too far away, and be able to get home quickly, the father and son wanted to emigrate to Norway, if the way opened up. Suddenly it did open, and they showed their attachment and appreciation by phoning to us, from some distance, excusing themselves for not being able to call on us for a parting visit, since they were leaving at 3 A.M. When the boy spoke on the phone, his voice broke down with tears. Please pray for them, that the seed sown may bring full fruit soon.

Last night we had a visit with another family expecting to leave before long. They even treated us to a supper, something exceptional, but he had a good position with the immigration offices, so could afford it. We spent over three hours with them, presenting the Gospel from many standpoints, even to the coming of the Lord. Evidently the effort was not without its influence, but the cares of the world still have predominance in their lives. The man seemed almost insulted when I suggested that he might not even get to his destination. He used to be well off, and had plans for rehabilitation in business in New York. To leave everything behind still seems too much for him. Deceitful riches! Yet the Lord is able to follow them, if they will yield.

While I was waiting for Mrs. Lukesh to come out of a shop, where she was buying some necessities, a young man came across the street to see me. We know him as one of the temporary policemen of the IRO, which is the combination directing the immigration and the camps connected therewith. He has always been friendly, though we have never had a chance to speak to him personally before. The conversation turned first on common things. But that would not satisfy me, and soon we spoke about one's responsibility to God, since He offers us salvation free and complete. After some hesitation, the young man professed to accept the gift of God, and there, on the street, thanked God for it. We will now watch to see if it be genuine, and will bear fruit meet for repentance. He just moved to one of the new wooden barracks, so we will visit his wife there also.

This gives you a cross-section of our activity, even though it does not always end in such an encouraging way. There is too much of gross sin, and its results, which hardens the people. Please, when we speak about such difficulties, do not take it as a complaint; we just want you to know how the situation is, so that you may pray for us and the erring ones. Thank you again for your faithfulness in prayer during the past year, and we trust you will continue to uphold us in the ensuing year also.

(February, 1951.) "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21.4.)

Seeing and hearing all the woes around us, one would think that the people would be desiring the grace of God. But it is not so; they would like to have some Utopia that would change everything in their favor, but they will not have it in the way of God, as shown in the above verse. One is distressed to see all the selfishness that exists; and what can be expected, when the leaders give such an example. Again, we saw a priest, who has followers, and claims to rule the people, but is a drunkard, immoral, and all that goes with it.

A few days ago we saw a notice telling how a refugee, who had been given a position of trust, had embezzled over ten thousand dollars. Recently another nineteen-year-old refugee murdered a twenty-year-old girl. Just last night I saw a sickening sight—some of the new American boys, who have been sent here to defend the peace, were so drunk that they could not stand on their feet. They were evidently boys who had not taken liquor before, now being enticed by “old hands,” and laughed at by those who sell the stuff. Another distressing event is the suicide of a fine boy refugee, who had faithfully studied English, so that he might be able to speak it when he got “over.” Official red tape prevented him and his brother from earning a decent living, and the young fellow, in despair, inhaled gas.

It is just as of old, when the Son of man came to seek and to save what was lost. The people do not know they are lost, but think they must be good and do the best they can—what a travesty of religion! Entertainments find some hearing. We of course are far from entertaining, but are glad to have a folding organ, the only instrument of our equipment which we were able to bring out from behind the “iron curtain.” It is a great help in our ministry, and some attraction among the refugees. Since the Lord gave us the use of that tiny car, we are just able to carry that folding organ with us; it helps us to have an impromptu meeting just anywhere, where we can get some people together. Often a rousing song-service brings some inquisitive ones in. For song-books we cut stencils of some songs, had them duplicated, and stitched the leaves together. We miss our duplicator, as we constantly have need of multiple copies of things that cannot be printed, as too expensive.

Our great difficulty is to find a place in which to hold our services. We often have to waste much time in hunting up an available place and getting a permit to use it. Often we do as our Lord did in His earthly ministry, speaking to the people in their own quarters, no matter how crowded they may be. But if you can imagine the Tower of Babel, that is the way it often is here, people of all nationalities crowded together, and perhaps each one objecting, as it is not “his religion.” The ecumenical idea is being propagated, according to which no “violence” is to be done to the “belief” of the other person. Occasionally our efforts for the children are helpful also to the older people, and we use the same room for them in the evening. With the closing of the present camps, new problems will arise.

Recently some young fellows from a distant camp came here for the final processing, that is, testing for immigration. They loved to sing, and thus appreciated the meetings. But there are certain stereotyped questions which we find people asking over and over, and after we have given the best information we could, it is lightly turned aside with “I just wanted to see what you would say.” Again, it often seems that a soul has a serious desire, but there is some pet sin that the person will not give up.

We located a family of Czech origin, in a large camp. The children are bright, and love to learn Bible verses. The mother claimed that she would make an effort to win her husband, who loves drink over-much. The next thing we knew, she was in a hospital for a serious operation; and after passing through that, she discovered her husband’s unfaithfulness and planned to expose him. Of course the situation was a difficult one, but even so, her attitude was anything but Christian.

The enemy is endeavoring to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Such effort is made even in Czechoslovakia, among those we left behind. Tabitha writes of modernism and heresy there. We appreciate earnest prayer, for the time is short.

In His glad service, yours,

CHARLES and EDNA LUKESH.



THIS IS A NEW GERMAN CHURCH

*Briefer
Messages
from Those
We Have
Helped*

The following letter from the pastor of a Baptist church in the French Zone of Germany was received just as we were going to press. It is so moving in its original spelling and phraseology that we give it without alteration.

"To the American European Fellowship, 15 Philipse Place, Yonkers 3, N. Y. Dear Brothers in Christ! By your kindness we received today your Gift Parcel with fine clothes for our Refugee Church. I thank you very much in the name of the receivers. God may reward you for your love! Inside you find a photo of our Church, which will on the 8 of April be consecrated. There will be also some American brothers, which have helped us to build up this Gods House. It was mostly built in Autumn and wintertime and with freewilling people, for we must spare and building is very dear just now. But God helped us to now and we hope He will fill it with hungry souls. After this we hope to finish the house and to build up a lodgement for the pastor. The room has place for 190 persons and the small for 50 persons. We rejoice now very much to this day and pray that He may fill it with His presence. In last years you have done us much good. We can never forget, that many of you were the instrument to beware us from the most terrible things, from the dead of hunger and so on. Many many wear American clothes and are happy for them. God may give a seed of saved souls after your sewing of Love. Yours truly, O. H."

Pastor Max Monsky celebrated, on March 9th, his seventy-fifth birthday; on March 17th, the golden anniversary of his ordination to the ministry; and on March 30th, the completion of fifty years of religious work in Austria. We tender him and his co-workers our hearty congratulations on this three-fold jubilee. Pastor Monsky continues vigorous and active, and constantly makes preaching journeys which often last for several weeks. He writes us that there is great need of prayer and help for his People's Mission in Austria, as the flow of gifts from Germany, Switzerland and America has been greatly diminished of late. "I take it very hard," he says, "that the work should be decreased, for the doors are open now more than ever, and the need is great." He plans to preach in the streets of Vienna this summer, as he did last year. The prices of coal, paper, office equipment, rents, etc., have been much increased, and the mission's need is crucial. We lay this matter upon your hearts for prayer.

And from Tel Aviv, Israel, one of the nurses in our clinic writes: "Dear sister in Christ, Ekaterina Normanovna: I do not know how to express our appreciation for your (so to speak) motherly care for us, and also for the children of God in many places. I thank you for the Christmas presents, the wonderful pen, the magnificent Christmas parcel, containing so many delicacies, such as I have seen in the old Russia twenty-nine years ago, and have not had since. May the Lord bless you in your task of serving Him and His children, for His glory and the spread of His kingdom. Yours in Him, ADA DOSSIK."

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS—February and March, 1951
(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depository for all gifts.)

34785---\$1.00	34822---\$1.50	34859---\$1.00	34896---\$5.00
34786---3.00	34823---10.00	34860---6.00	34897---35.00
34787---5.00	34824---25.00	34861---5.00	34898---2.00
34788---15.00	34825---10.00	34862---15.00	34899---16.00
34789---1.00	34826---10.00	34863---2.00	34900---10.00
34790---1.00	34827---10.00	34864---50.00	34901---5.00
34791---3.00	34828---2.00	34865---50.00	34902---5.00
34792---10.00	34829---1.00	34866---2.00	34903---200.00
34793---1.00	34830---10.00	34867---2.00	34904---1.00
34794---2.00	34831---10.00	34868---75.00	34905---1.55
34795---2.00	34832---10.00	34869---5.00	34906---25.00
34796---8.00	34833---40.00	34870---1.00	34907---20.00
34797---2.00	34834---5.00	34871---1.00	34908---50.00
34798---275.00	34835---3.00	34872---10.00	34909---10.00
34799---10.00	34836---75.00	34873---10.00	34910---25.00
34800---16.00	34837---30.00	34874---25.00	34911---100.00
34801---10.00	34838---83.00	34875---50.00	34912---50.00
34802---20.00	34839---5.00	34876---2.00	34913---5.00
34803---50.00	34840---20.00	34877---25.00	34914---1.00
34804---3.00	34841---50.00	34878---100.00	34915---10.00
34805---50.00	34842---5.00	34879---10.00	34916---2.00
34806---10.00	34843---10.00	34880---20.00	34917---5.00
34807---10.00	34844---2.00	34881---1.00	34918---1.00
34808---10.00	34845---1.00	34882---1.00	34919---10.00
34809---1.00	34846---5.00	34883---2.00	34920---101.00
34810---18.50	34847---15.00	34884---1.00	34921---5.00
34811---1.00	34848---1.00	34885---100.00	34922---10.00
34812---5.00	34849---17.52	34886---5.00	34923---30.00
34813---10.00	34850---20.00	34887---5.00	34924---10.00
34814---40.00	34851---4.00	34888---5.00	34925---10.00
34815---25.00	34852---1.00	34889---15.00	34926---10.00
34816---5.00	34853---35.00	34890---2.00	34927---25.00
34817---1.00	34854---10.00	34891---200.00	34928---75.00
34818---2.00	34855---1.00	34892---75.00	34929---1.60
34819---5.00	34856---20.00	34893---65.00	34930---3.00
34820---2.00	34857---10.00	34894---3.00	34931---30.00
34821---10.00	34858---5.00	34895---15.00	34932---100.00

Our associate in Lisbon, Portugal, writes: "These last times I have been especially exercised about the scattering of the Lord's Word. I feel that the time is short. From time to time, according to the means at my disposal, I used to publish an advertisement in the chief secular newspaper of Lisbon, offering to send a Gospel free to anyone applying for it. The cost of such an advertisement, and of buying and mailing the Gospels, amounts to about \$4.50 each time. It is also possible to place an advertisement, by contract, on the backs of trolley-car tickets here. The tramway company contracts for a minimum of 333,333 such advertisements on tickets, for about \$30.00. The same amount, \$30.00, would also be needed for buying and mailing each thousand Gospels sent. How many friends would collaborate in such a plan? I will be thankful for all the prayers addressed to the Lord about this matter. May He bless you abundantly! Very faithfully yours in His love, service, and waiting for His speedy coming, GUIDO WALDEMAR OLIVEIRA."